

Abstract 358

TITLE: "Starting and Sustaining Latino Capacity-Building State/Local Networks for HIV/AIDS Prevention"

AUTHORS: Charlene Doria-Ortiz, Center for Health Policy Development, Inc (CHPD),

ISSUES: In the age of AIDS/HIV the need for developing and sustaining Latino networks that facilitate the interface of the different systems of prevention, care and services has become more critical and presents a definite challenge for communities. Latino networks, coalitions or coregroups could also serve as pipelines and capacity-building training ground for their Latino membership as representatives on the Ryan white Community Planning Groups and peer review committees.

SETTING: Latino HIV/AIDS Coalitions of the Southwest (TX, CO, AZ, NM, CA, FL, IL, and NV).

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Community-based organizations; Latino minority organizations; policy, advocacy, prevention and care programs.

PROJECT: Prevention Coalitions were implemented in 3 Southwestern communities to address the following issues: 1) The capacity-building and leadership skills of Latino communities; 2) The development of a Latino health prevention network; 3) The need to increase the knowledge, availability and coordination of bi-lingual/bi-cultural resources and materials, and 4) The building of the necessary infrastructure to address HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and advocacy for Latino communities.

RESULTS: CHPD, through its Southwest AIDS/HIV/STD Information, Education and Training Project II (SWAIETP II), has developed and provided technical assistance to 5 statewide coregroups and provided initial culturally-based training for four prevention networks.

LESSONS LEARNED: Latino Health Prevention Coalitions have been started and successfully trained in Texas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, and Nevada. These networks of HIV/AIDS providers are an effective culturally based mechanism to facilitate bi-lingual/bi-cultural prevention strategies and to address the need for coordinated mechanisms that are responsive to Latino communities. The development and implementation of these types of networks requires a culturally based process that reaffirms the existing community strengths and facilitates coordination of efforts.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Charlene Doria-Ortiz

Address: 6905 Alamo Downs Parkway
San Antonio, Texas 78238

Telephone: (210) 520-8020

Fax: (210) 520-9522

E-mail: chpd@ix.netcom.com